

FAMILY VIOLENCE, FAMILY CONFLICT AND FAMILY SEPARATION

Some children live in homes where a parent is abused by a spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend. The number of domestic-related calls received by Chesterfield County Police increased in 2004. Other children experience the stress caused by parents who are divorcing or are separated. The number of parents participating in the "Living Apart...Parenting Together" class, required for all parents filing custody or visitation petitions in the 12th District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, decreased drastically in fiscal 2004.

The Virginia Department of Social Services implemented a new system for handling child-abuse and neglect complaints that changed the way statistics are calculated.

Children may be separated from their families for a variety of reasons. They may have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect and are currently living with foster parents; they may be in foster care for other reasons, or they may be living in residential treatment facilities on a short- or long-term basis due to emotional, behavioral or educational problems.

Chesterfield's foster-care rate-the average daily rate of children aged 0 to 17 years old living in state-supervised, family-based foster care per 1,000 children-is less than half the state's rate.

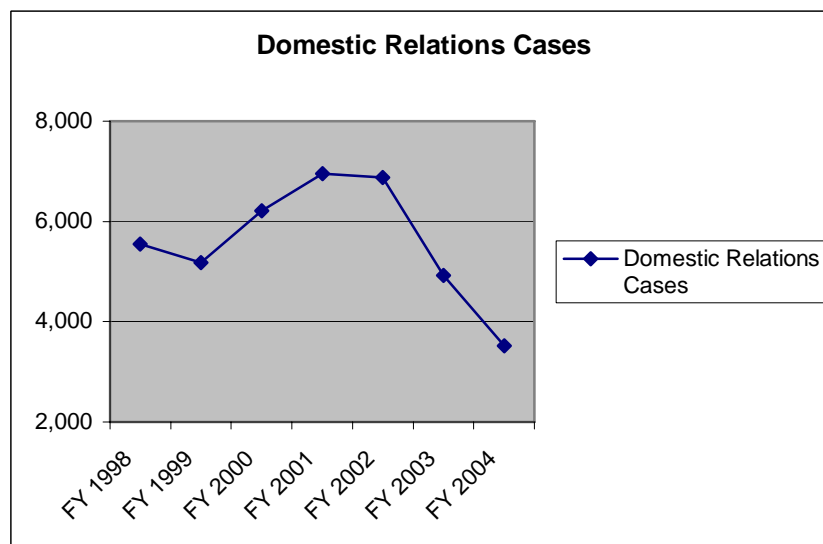
Domestic Relations Cases*

	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	2004
Domestic relations cases	5,555	5,183	6,217	6,953	6,873	4,918**	3524

Source: 12th District Court Services Unit

* The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court handles all domestic-relations cases, including child custody, visitation, child support and spousal abuse.

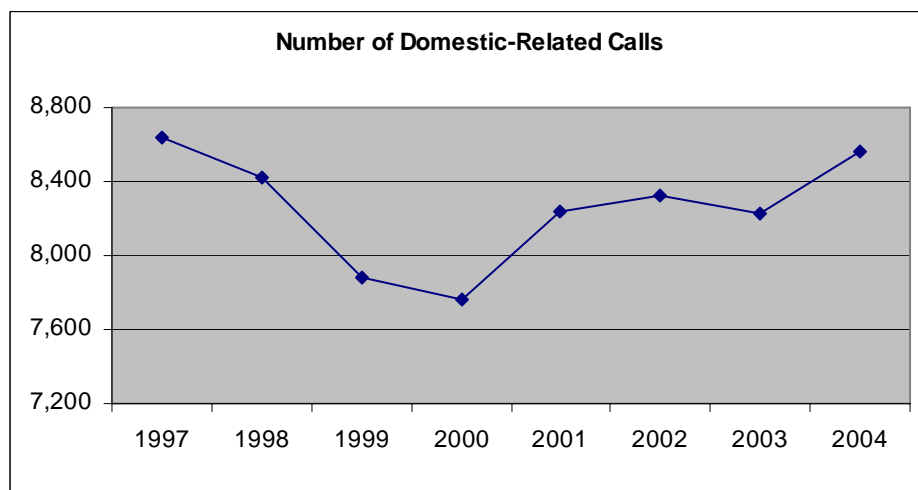
** Beginning fiscal 2003, Domestic Intake no longer conducted mediations or diverted cases from court. All custody requests were petitioned to the court. This resulted in a significant decrease in domestic-intake numbers.



Domestic-Related Calls to Police

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of Domestic Related Calls	8,639	8,420	7,884	7,757	8,237	8,324	8,229	8,558

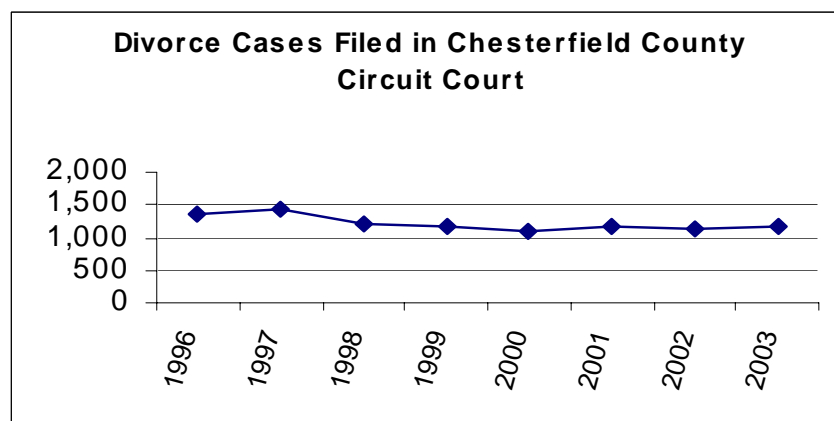
Source: Chesterfield County Police Department



Divorce Cases Filed in Chesterfield County Circuit Court

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Filings for Divorce	1,371	1,443	1,199	1,175	1,098	1,151	1,138	1,152

Source: Supreme Court of Virginia, Circuit Court Caseload Reporting System

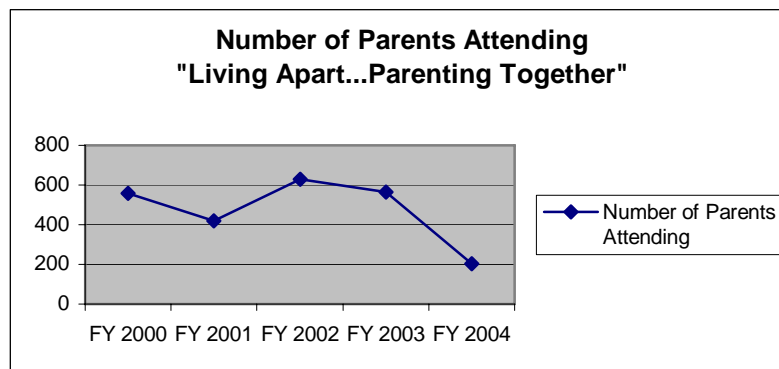


Parents Attending "Living Apart...Parenting Together"*

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Number of Parents Attending	558	419	628	565	203

Source: Twelfth District Court Service Unit

* "Living Apart...Parenting Together" is an educational program designed to teach effective parenting during transitions of divorce or parental separations. Every Chesterfield County or Colonial Heights resident who files a custody or visitation petition in the 12th District Court Service Unit (Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights) is court-ordered to enroll in the program.



Child Abuse and Neglect* Chesterfield County

	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
No. of Complaints Investigated	897	834	900	829	881	*	972
No. of Founded Complaints	235	193	276	282	247	*	86
Child Fatalities from Abuse	1	0	0	1	0	1	2

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Service

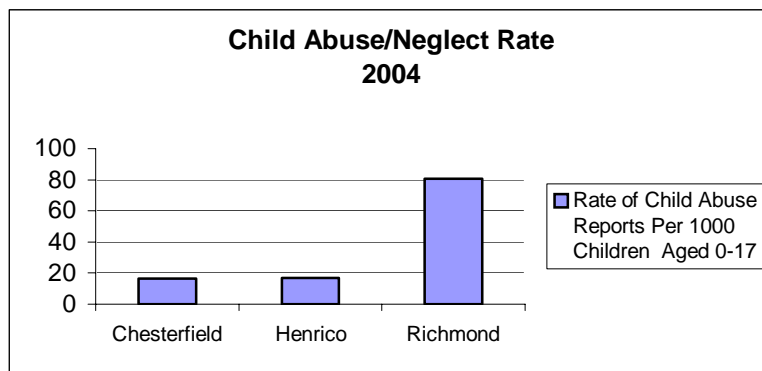
* During fiscal 2003, the Virginia Department of Social Services implemented a new system for handling valid complaints of child abuse and neglect. The Differential Response system separates the complaints into two categories: complaints that are investigated and those that receive a family assessment.

According to the Chesterfield County/Colonial Heights Department of Social Services, of the 2,312 reports of suspected child abuse/neglect in fiscal 2003 1,026 were deemed valid and accepted for response. About 75 percent to 80 percent of valid cases were referred for family assessment and 20 percent to 25 percent were investigated. Approximately one-half of those investigated were determined in years past, to be founded complaints. Because the number of complaints investigated is much lower than previously, fiscal 2002 statistics cannot be compared to previous fiscal-year statistics.

Child Abuse/Neglect Rate 2004

	Chesterfield	Henrico	Richmond
Rate of Child-Abuse Reports Per 1000 Children Aged 0-17	16.6	16.9	80.6

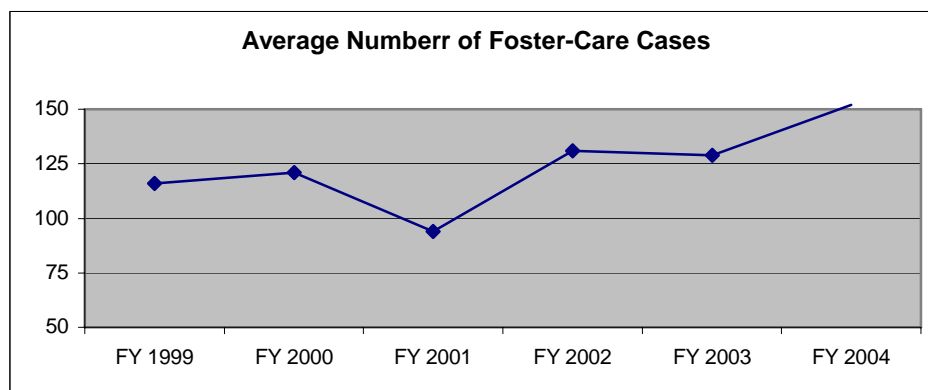
Source: Virginia Prevention Needs Assessment Social Indicator Database



Children in Foster Care

	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Average Number of Foster-Care Cases	116	121	94	131	129	152

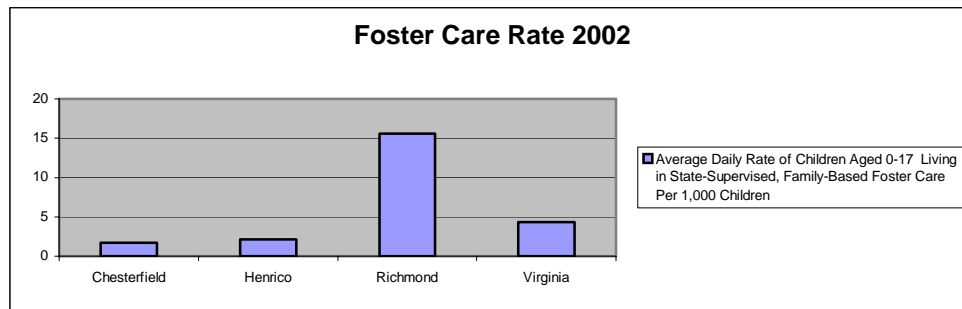
Source: Chesterfield County Department of Social Services



Foster Care Rate 2002

	Chesterfield	Henrico	Richmond	Virginia
Average Daily Rate of Children Aged 0-17 Living in State-Supervised, Family-Based Foster Care Per 1,000 Children	1.68	2.12	15.57	4.36

Source: Virginia Prevention Needs Assessment Social Indicator Database



Interagency Services

	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Total Clients Served by Interagency Services	196	184	188	193	204	224	303
Clients in Residential-Treatment Facilities**	47	31	60	68	66	93	104

Source: Chesterfield Interagency Services

*Interagency Services serves youths with serious emotional or behavioral problems and youths needing foster care.

**Includes therapeutic foster care, group homes and residential placements (including for special education)

